



# Montana Drought Advisory Committee



Montana Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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Peggy Stringer  
Director

March 14, 2006

# Since Last Month, Cool, Wet Weather Improves Crops and Range



March 14, 2006

**July 1 forecast  
indicates**

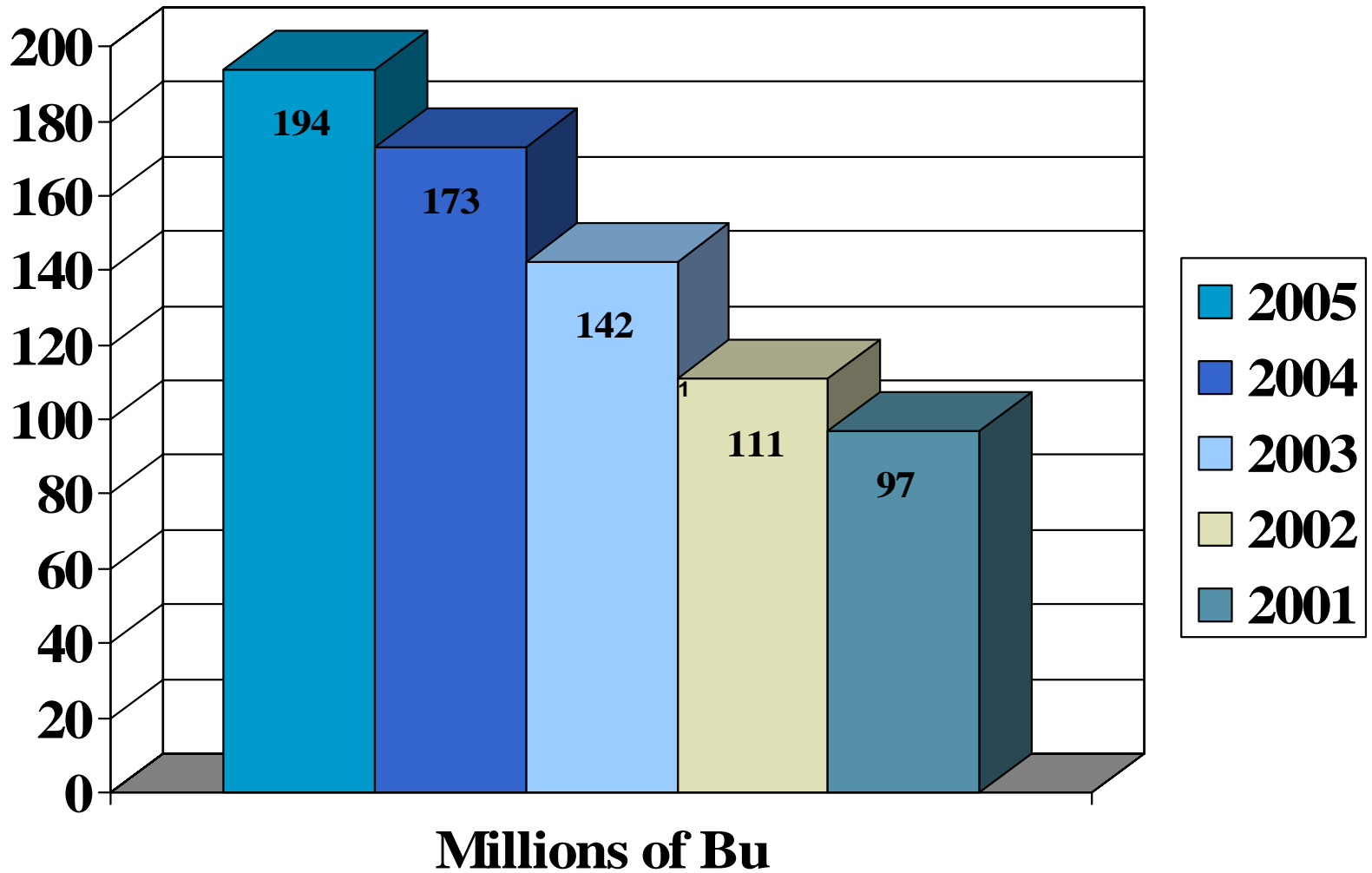
**All Wheat production  
is up 12% from last  
year!**

**3<sup>rd</sup> highest production  
on record following  
1993 & 1995**



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# All Wheat Production 2005-2001



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# Winter Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



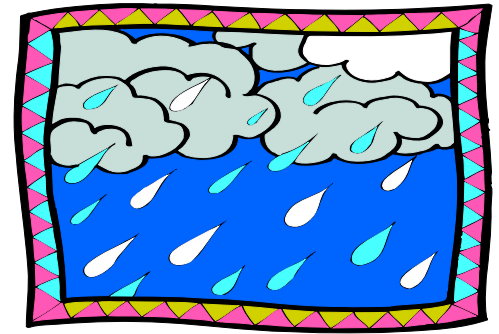
## **Harvested acreage**

- 2.05 million acres
- Up 420,000 acres from last year

**Crop conditions improved from last month, due to cool, wet weather**

**Production up from last year, due to rainfall and more harvested acres**

# Winter Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



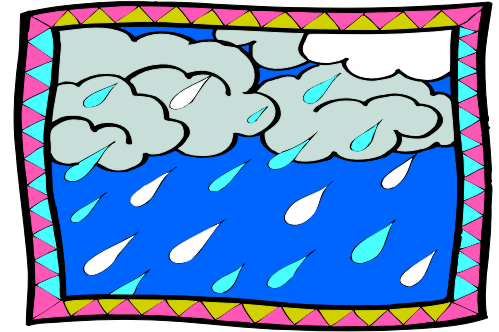
## Production

- 88.2 million bu
- Up 32% from last year due to abundant rainfall

## Yield

- 2005 yield forecast 43.0 bu
  - 2 bu higher than June 1, 2005 forecast
  - New record high yield
- 2004 yield 41.0 bu per acre
- 8.3 bu higher than 10-year average

# Winter Wheat July 1 Production Forecast

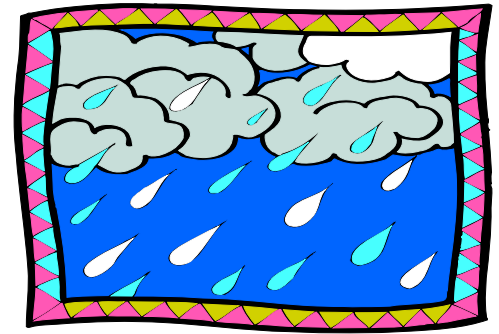


On July 1 indications point to an  
**excellent** record yielding winter  
wheat crop

**Final winter wheat estimates**

**Small grains summary released  
September 30**

# Spring Planted Crops

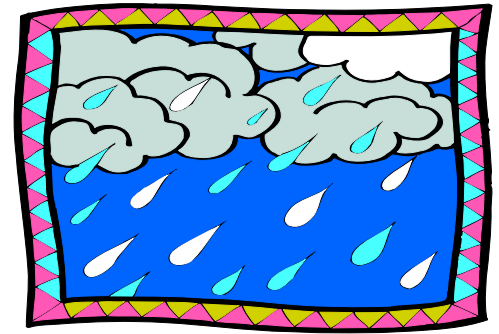


- **Precipitation has improved conditions for spring grains**
- **Wheat progress ahead of last year**

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# Spring Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



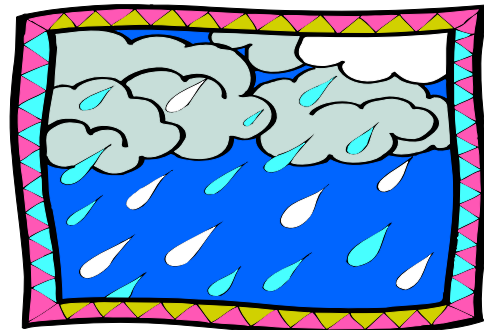
## Planted acreage

- 2.6 million acres
- Down 400,000 acres from last year

## Harvested acreage

- 2.5 million acres
- Down 350,000 acres from last year

# Spring Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



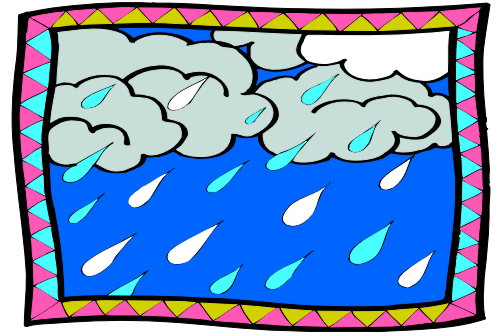
## Production

- 87.5 million bu
- Down 1% from last year

## Yield

- 35.0 bu per ac
- 4.0 bu more than last year
- 8.0 bu higher than the 10-year average

# Durum Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



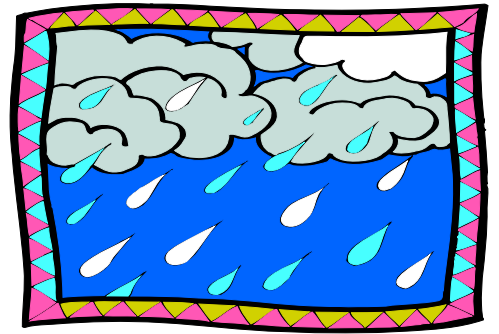
## **Planted acreage**

- 570,000 acres
- Same as last year

## **Harvested acreage**

- 560,000 acres
- Up 3% from last year

# Durum Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



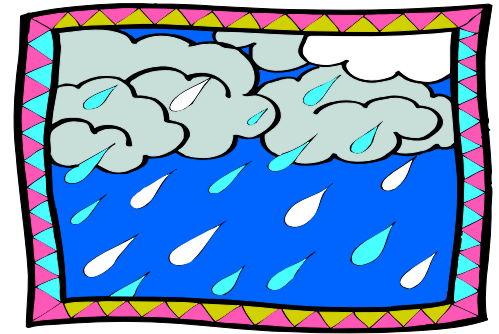
## Production

- 17.9 million bu
- Down slightly from last year

## Yield

- 32.0 bu per ac
- Down 1 bu from last year

# Barley July 1 Production Forecast



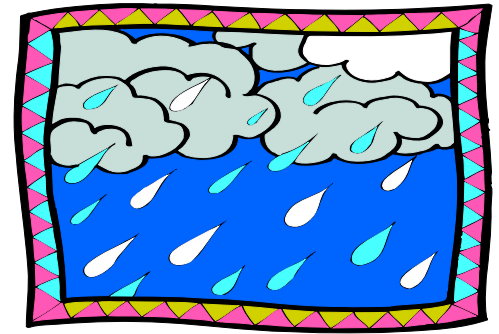
## **Planted acreage**

- 950,000 acres
- Down 50,000 acres from last year

## **Harvested acreage**

- 750,000 acres
- Down 80,000 acres from last year

# Barley July 1 Production Forecast



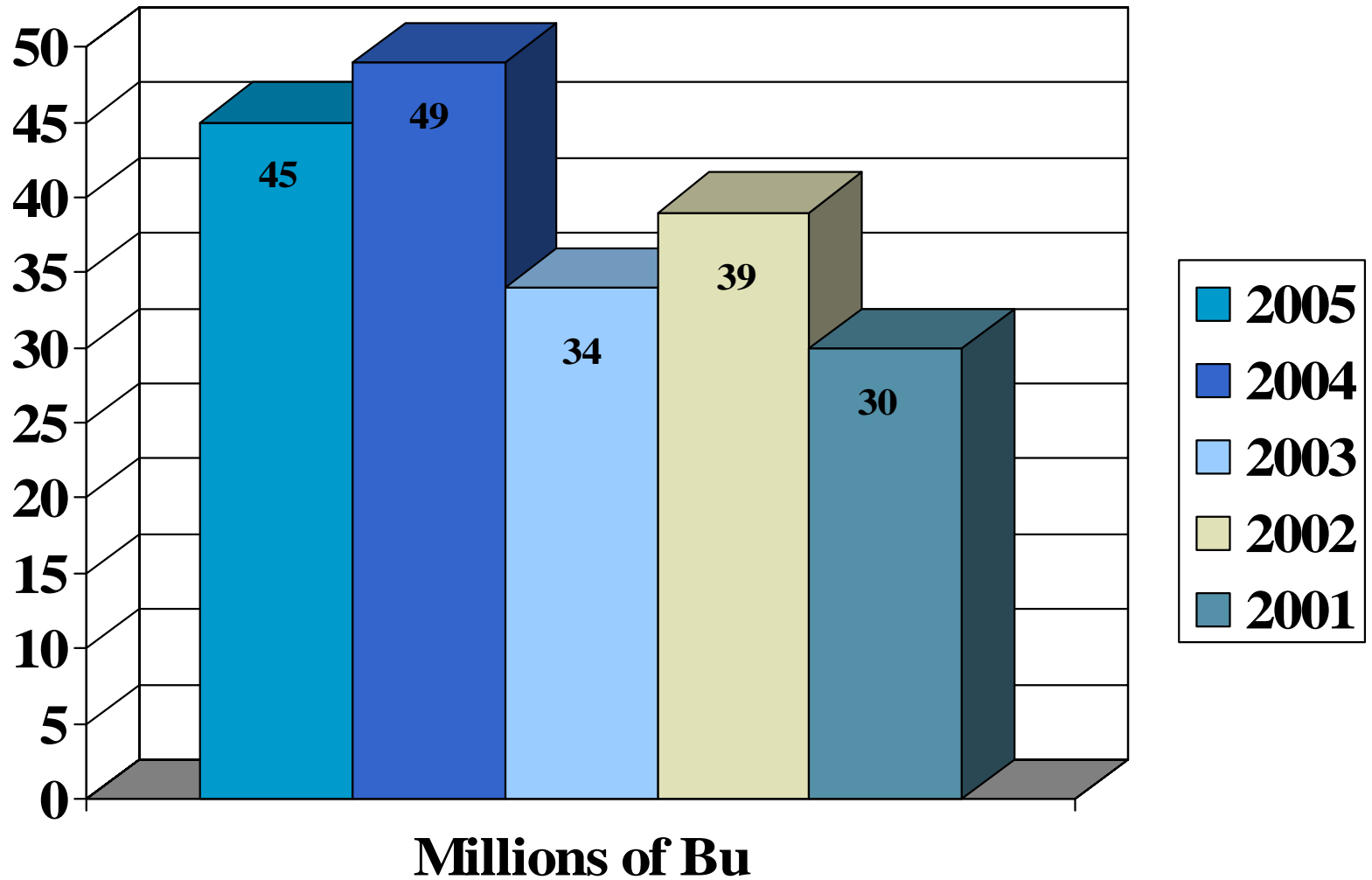
## Production

- 45.0 million bu
- Compared with 49.0 million bu last year

## Yield

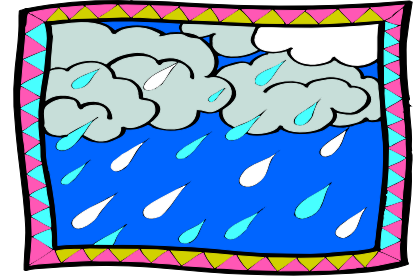
- 60.0 bu per ac
- 1 bu more than last year
- New record high yield
- 13.2 bu higher than the 10-year average

# Barley Production 2005-2001



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# Topsoil Moisture Ahead of Last Year and 5-Year Ave!

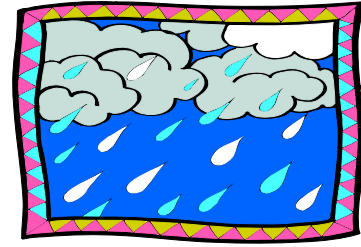


<i>July 10, 2005</i>	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Ave
Very short - short	20%	12%	38%	57%
Adequate	77%	83%	58%	42%
Surplus	3%	5%	4%	1%

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# Subsoil Moisture Ahead of Last Year & 5-Year Ave!

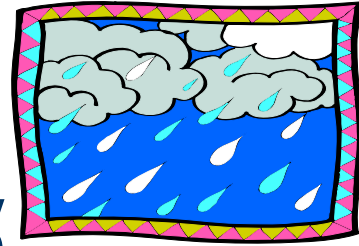


<i>July 10, 2005</i>	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Ave
Very short – short	36%	30%	61%	71%
Adequate	61%	67%	39%	29%
Surplus	3%	3%	0%	0%

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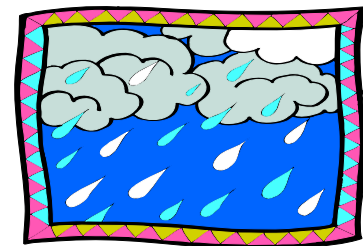
# Crop Weather Report

## Week Ending July 10, 2005



- Rains over the last month have improved crop conditions in winter wheat and spring seeded crops
- Winter wheat crop progress ahead of last year and the five-year average, with 69% of the crop turning color

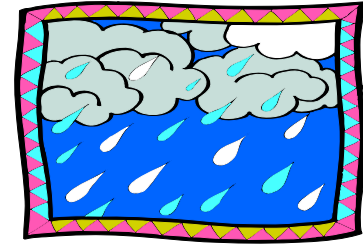
# Winter Wheat Crop Condition Better than Last Year and Five-Year Average



<i>July 10, 2005</i>	Very poor- Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	4%	12%	46%	38%
Last week	3%	16%	43%	38%
Last year	12%	23%	58%	7%
5-yr ave	33%	31%	31%	5%

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# Winter Wheat Progress Ahead Last Yr and 5 Yr Ave

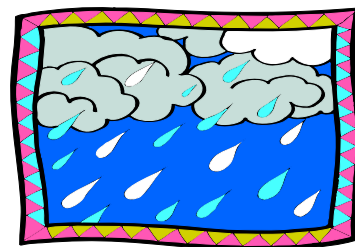


<i>July 10, 2005</i>	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr ave
<b>Winter wheat</b> turning	69%	21%	39%	62%

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# Spring Wheat Crop Condition

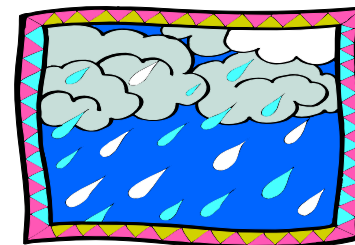
## Mostly Good and Excellent!



<i>July 10, 2005</i>	Very poor-Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	4%	15%	66%	15%
Last week	2%	11%	71%	16%
Last year	9%	25%	60%	6%
5-yr ave	19%	30%	45%	6%

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# Crop Progress Percent

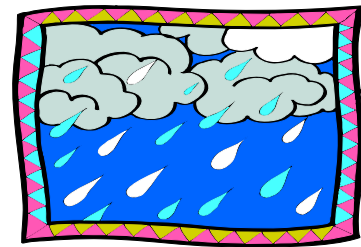


<i>July 10, 2005</i>	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr ave
<b>Spring wheat</b>				
boot	88%	81%	83%	85%
headed	63%	38%	59%	60%
<b>Barley</b>				
boot	94%	76%	92%	86%
headed	66%	30%	66%	63%

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# Barley Crop Condition

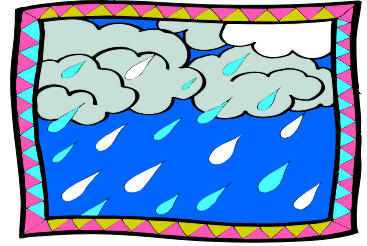
## Mostly Good to Excellent!



<i>July 10, 2005</i>	Very poor-Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	4%	22%	53%	21%
Last week	4%	19%	58%	19%
Last year	5%	27%	56%	12%
5-yr ave	20%	31%	40%	9%

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# Last weeks hot weather spurred hay harvesting

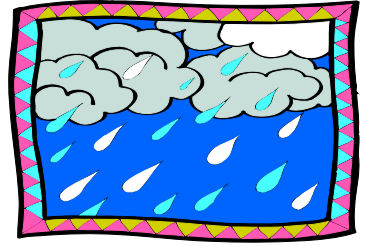


<i>July 10, 2005</i>	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr ave
<b>Alfalfa hay</b> First cutting	62%	38%	60%	67%
<b>Other hay</b> First cutting	61%	32%	44%	50%

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# Livestock Grazing



- Range and pasture feed condition well ahead of one & 5-yr average
- Livestock movement to summer ranges virtually complete

# Range & Pasture Condition Much Better than Last Year 5-Year Average



<i>July 10, 2005</i>	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr ave
Very poor-poor	11%	9%	40%	40%
Fair	25%	22%	31%	34%
Good	50%	53%	24%	23%
Excellent	14%	16%	5%	3%

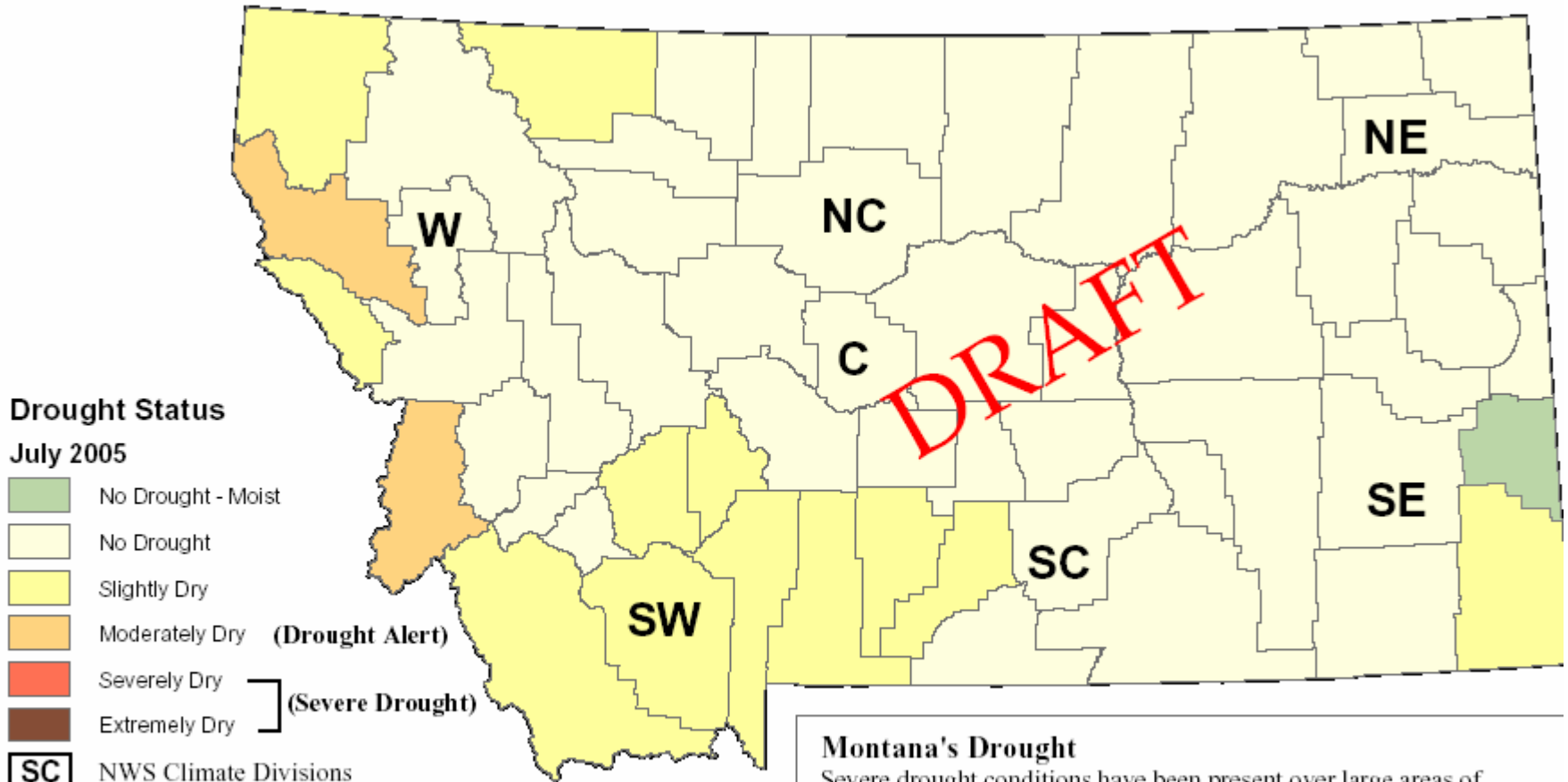
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# Crops and range across Montana looks good!



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## Montana Drought Status by County - July, 2005

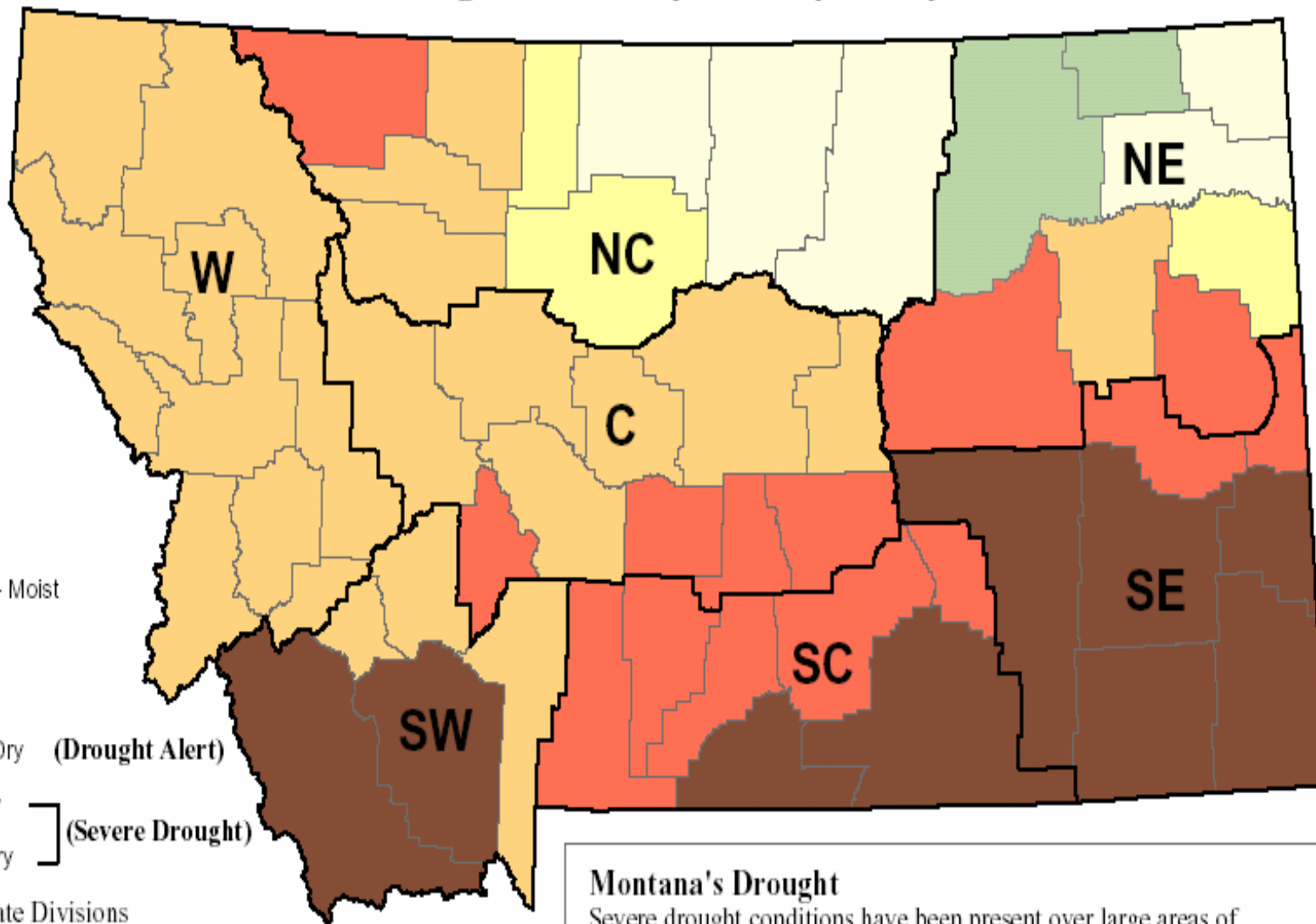


### Montana's Drought

Severe drought conditions have been present over large areas of Montana for four or more consecutive years. Long-term drought impacts, including low soil moisture, reservoir storage, groundwater, and forest fuel moisture levels, continue to exist in areas where short-term relief may be present or develop.

The Governor's Drought Advisory Committee determines a monthly

## Montana Drought Status by County - July 15, 2004

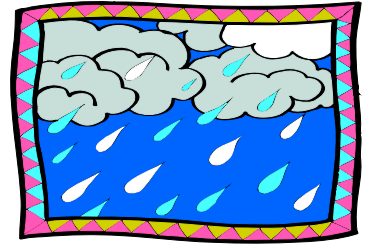


**Drought Alert - Governor's Drought**  
Advisory Committee strongly encourages local officials to convene local drought committees.

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# To Sum It Up



- Excellent winter wheat and barley crop
- Too hot, windy or dry will reduce yield for spring grains
- Optimistic 2005 production will outpace 2004
- Crop is not in the bin, but this years crop looks awesome!
- Montana's rangeland look great!



We do not need chocolate this month!



Farmers and ranchers are smiling!

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